



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-1929)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Eleanor R. Montaño, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio,
Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D.,
Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and Commissioner Susan
Burton

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Call to Order. (13-1733)

Chairperson Montaño called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Chairperson Montaño led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a
moment of silence.**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approval of the April 10, 2013 Minutes. (13-1766)

**On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by
Commissioner Susan Burton and unanimously carried, the minutes of April
10, 2013 were approved.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department Representatives Report's for April 17, 2013.

Department of Auditor-Controller

- Monthly Report

Department of Children and Family Services

- Monthly Report
 - Concerns Regarding Children Using Money for Drugs

Internal Services Department

- Monthly Report
 - Maintenance/Equipment Backorders at Lock-up Facilities

Department of Mental Health

- Monthly Report

Probation Department

- Monthly Report

Sheriff's Department

- Monthly Report (13-1767)

Department of Auditor-Controller (AC)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the month of March 2013 as follows:

- **19 Total phone calls:**
 - **Calls Relating to:**
 - ❖ **Collaboration Contacts/Referrals/Information** **8**
 - Probation Referral **1**
 - DCFS – ILP Coordinator **1**
 - Foster Care Ombudsman **1**
 - Group Home **3**
 - General Inquiries **2**
 - ❖ **Personal Rights** **4**
 - Contact **2**
 - Living Conditions and Respect **1**
 - Respect **1**
 - ❖ **Personal** **3**
 - Discrimination **1**
 - Fear, Threats, Intimidation **2**
 - ❖ **Other** **4**
 - CSW-related **3**
 - Hair Products **1**

- Visits and Outreach (7)
 - ❖ B & I Group (2 sites)
 - ❖ Dream Home Care (3 sites)
 - ❖ Hathaway-sycamores (1 site)
 - ❖ West Covina Group Home (1 site)

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Patricia Balonos Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the period of March 20 to April 16, 2013 the child abuse hotline received a total of 20 referrals in the following categories:

- ❖ 1 Child at Risk
- ❖ 8 General Neglect
- ❖ 1 Caretaker Absent
- ❖ 1 Evaluated Out
- ❖ 5 Physical Abuse
- ❖ 4 Sexual Abuse

During the same reporting period there were a total of 11 closed referrals in the following categories:

- ❖ 1 Sexual Abuse (substantiated)
- ❖ 6 Physical Abuse
- ❖ 4 General Neglect

Ms. Balonos Gonzalez reported Rosemary Children Services (RCS) continues to be on hold even though they are in compliance in making the necessary improvements as a result of the issued corrective action plan. RCS is working closely with the Department of Mental Health and is receiving guidance on administering medication. Ms. Kathryn Stroupe, LCSW, Mental Health Clinical Supervisor, Residential/TBS Program Administration, stated RCS has one more session to complete for certification. Ms. Balonos Gonzalez reported that DCFS will recommend that the hold be lifted.

Additionally, Ms. Balonos Gonzalez advised the Commission that she noticed an increase in Absent Without Leave (AWOL) which appears to be a pattern relating to the spring season. Commissioner Bigby visited Children Are Our Future (Terry House) and was told the children were

using their allowance to buy drugs. Ms. Balonos Gonzalez advised the Commission that the social worker, once notified, could write on the Needs and Services Plan (NSP) that the youth was incapable of managing their money; therefore receives no allowance or make special arrangements on how the money can be used.

Internal Services Department (ISD)

Brian Lear, Building Crafts Superintendent, (ISD), reported that ISD provides maintenance services for the Probation Department only. He further stated that the Sheriff's Department is responsible for maintenance in adult lock-up facilities. Commander Cooper reported that the state consolidated courts are maintained by the State of California and the Sheriff provides custodial duties in the jails located within the courthouses. Mr. Lear mentioned that ISD has been contracted out and has lost 40% of its manpower. He also acknowledges that since the state has taken over, the response for maintenance has been slower.

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

Kathryn Stroupe, LCSW, Mental Health Clinical Supervisor, Residential/TBS Program Administration, informed the Commissioners that she had nothing to report.

Probation Department (PD)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Placement Permanency & Quality Assurance, PD, reported on the status of AWOLs for the month of March 2013 as follows:

- ❖ 141 AWOLS involving 118 Youth
- ❖ 17 AWOL'ed more than once
- ❖ 57 Remain AWOL
- ❖ 29 Returned to Group Home
- ❖ 24 Juvenile Hall
- ❖ 1 Termed Out
- ❖ 2 Home on Probation
- ❖ 5 Camps

Additionally, Ms. Pease reported that 47% of the AWOL incidents were Hispanic males with a mean age of 16.6 years. The overall average age of youth who AWOLed in March 2013, was 16.7 years. She offered to

provide, in writing, additional statistics. She also reported that Phoenix House was released from hold on April 10, 2013 that was imposed on March 13, 2013 because the home failed to provide detailed information regarding a youth that was harming herself.

During the same reporting period there were referrals in the following categories:

- Child Abuse (2)
 - ❖ 1 General Neglect (inconclusive)
 - ❖ 1 General Neglect (unfounded)
- Group Home Investigation (8)
 - ❖ 2 Unfounded
 - ❖ 6 Substantiated

Ms. Pease continued by further stating that there are four (4) potential adoptions (2 are in the active phase and 2 are in the planning stages). The parents' rights for one of the youth will be terminated on March 28, 2013, and the adoption is scheduled for June 4, 2013 in Northeast District (Pasadena), Department 271. Ms. Pease invited the Commission to attend the adoption.

In response to Commissioner Burton's question regarding phone calls for youth, Ms. Pease responded by stating that the youth are allowed to have phone calls at designated times and a group home that denies the youth frequent phone calls was denying the youth of their personal rights.

In response to Commissioner Bigby's question regarding an unauthorized person living at Children Are Our Future Group Home, Ms. Pease responded by stating that PD is presently monitoring that home and will inquire about the person that may be living there; and the Commission's Corrective Action Plan.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Gerald Cooper, Sheriff, announced that he met with the custody division captains and explained the Commission's role and responsibilities to them. He also spoke to the Captain at the San Dimas Sheriff Station who was not aware of the visit. Commander Cooper also spoke to Karen Dalton, Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF), about using a portion

of the of the IWF to purchase phone cards for indigent inmates. Commissioner Burton expressed her appreciation for suggesting the indigent phone card to IWF.

Commissioner Andrews read a press release issued by Supervisor Mike Antonovich concerning Assembly Bill 109 (AB 109) and the 11,643 offenders sentenced to County jail instead of State Prison. Commander Cooper responded by stating that the problem is not having the infrastructure, rehabilitation, protocols and so forth, to handle the change entrusted by AB109; funding for special programs was also a problem. Regarding the reduction of overcrowded jails, Commander Cooper further stated that women prisoners are less likely to be violent once reintroduced into society and are more likely to be an amiable candidate for rehabilitation.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Chairperson's Report on various items for April 17, 2013. (13-1768)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles with the Commissioners:

LA Times:

Baca to face feds in probe of jails (April 12, 2013)

Commissioner Andrews also submitted the following:

Press Release:

Antonovich on the County Budget (April 16, 2013)

Valley Press:

Valley law and order and 'realignment (April 14, 2013)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for April 17, 2013. (13-1769)

Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$955.96.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative

Reports for April 17, 2013. (13-1770)

Ms. Nyla Jefferson, Staff, Commission Services, relayed Ms. Famuyiwa apologies for being absent, but she was scheduled to attend a supervisors training. She further reported that the Commission may attend the Board of Supervisors Hearing as a group or speak to their Supervisors individually. After further discussion, the Commission decided to attend the April 23, 2013 Board meeting to address the closure of Kenyon Juvenile Courthouse.

Commissioner Andrews instructed Staff to contact Olive Crest Treatment Center to obtain additional information for the recognition letter and Board presentation for Ms. Makanani Washbon.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on April 17, 2013. (13-1771)

In Compliance:

❖ **Commissioner Burton visited Fred Jefferson Memorial Page 18 #3, on April 16, 2013.**

7. Commissioners Reports on Group Homes and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from April 11, 2013 to April 16, 2013. (13-1772)

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- ❖ **Commissioner Bacio visited B&I Group Home, Page 2, #1, on April 11, 2013.**
- ❖ **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited South Bay Bright Future #1, Page 37, #2, on April 15, 2013.**
- ❖ **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Turmont Homes for Boys (Carson), Page 41, #1, on April 16, 2013.**
- ❖ **Commissioners Bigby and Hill, Optimist Girls Group Home, Page 29, #4, on April 15, 2013.**

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-1773)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-1774)

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the meeting of April 17, 2013. (13-1775)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of April 17, 2013 at 12:04 p.m.